



LEVEE SYSTEM INTEGRITY

Since the 19th century, more than 1,000 miles of levees have been built to protect Delta islands. Today, we rely on many of these same levees to protect the drinking water supply for 22 million Californians, as well as Delta agriculture, terrestrial habitat, and infrastructure. This year, the Levee System Integrity Program (Levee Program) completed the following accomplishments:

- Developed an initial strategy to guide Levee Program implementation.
- Began work on developing a Delta Dredge and Reuse Strategy.
- Began work on refining a Delta Emergency Management Plan.
- Began work on refining the Co-management Memorandum of Understanding.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The primary goal of the Levee Program is to provide long-term protection for multiple Delta resources by maintaining and improving the integrity of the extensive Delta levee system. This includes secondary goals of addressing many complex and interrelated issues including:

- Improving levees to a higher standard for greater protection.
- Addressing permit and economic issues to enable expanded dredging and beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- Further improving emergency response capabilities.
- Reducing conflicts between levee maintenance and terrestrial and aquatic habitat resources on levees.
- Improving overall permit coordination.
- Improving subsidence control.
- Continuing to quantify risks to levees and implementing appropriate risk management strategies.
- Developing adequate and reliable funding.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) co-manage the Levee Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Initiated actions to refine the Delta Emergency Management Plan.
- Began work on development of the Delta Risk Management Strategy.
- Began work on the Delta Dredge and Reuse Strategy.